

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) An overhead area access staircase stowage system comprising:

- at least one servicing unit comprising;
  - at least one stowage unit; and
  - a staircase proximate to said at least one stowage unit and having a stowed state and a deployed state, said staircase comprising;
    - a plurality of stair elements; and
    - a state actuating system transitioning said stair elements between said stowed state and said deployed state within a single deck;
- said staircase comprising at least one stowage module accessible in both said deployed state and said stowed state.

Claim 2. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said servicing unit comprises:

- a first portion comprising;
  - a first stowage unit; and
  - said staircase; and
- a second portion comprising a second stowage unit.

Claim 3. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 2 wherein said first portion comprises a platform member corresponding with a staging area.

Claim 4. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 3 wherein said platform member is a stair element of said staircase.

Claim 5. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 2 wherein said second portion comprises a platform member corresponding with a staging area.

Claim 6. (cancelled)

Claim 7. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one divider separating stowage units of said at least one stowage unit.

Claim 8. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 7 wherein said at least one divider separates said staircase and said at least one stowage unit.

Claim 9. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 further comprising a plurality of cart bumpers coupled to said at least one divider.

Claim 10. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 further comprising a plurality of cart bumpers coupled to said at least one stowage unit and guiding stowage of at least one service cart.

Claim 11. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said at least one stowage module resides between stair elements of said plurality of stair elements.

Claim 12. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said staircase comprises at least one access panel coupled to said plurality of stair elements and allowing access to said at least one stowage module.

Claim 13. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said state actuating system comprises:

- a plurality of rollers;

- a U-shaped stair support member transitioning between states on said plurality of rollers;

- a potential energy device coupled to said U-shaped stair support member and assisting transition of said staircase between said stowed state and said deployed state.

Claim 14. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 13 wherein said rollers guide transition of and support said staircase.

Claim 15. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 13 further comprising at least one service cart retainer coupled to said U-shaped stair support member.

Claim 16. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one service cart retainer coupled to said staircase.

Claim 17. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one release mechanism allowing actuation of said staircase.

Claim 18. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said state actuating system comprises a deployment handle.

Claim 19. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said state actuating system comprises a motor.

Claim 20. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said plurality of stair elements have a plurality of shapes.

Claim 21. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said staircase further comprises at least one staging element.

Claim 22. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said staircase is deployable from at least one of a ceiling and a floor.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said staircase has a stowed state substantially above a service cart level and a deployed state substantially at said service cart level.

Claim 24 (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said at least one servicing unit is approximately one or more service carts deep.

Claim 25 (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said staircase is approximately one or more service carts deep.

Claim 26 (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said at least one servicing unit comprises:

- at least one platform member; and
- at least one worktable.

Claim 27 (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said plurality of stair elements comprises:

- parallel step elements; and
- angled step elements.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) An Aircraft comprising:

- a galley comprising;
  - at least one stowage unit; and
  - a staircase proximate to said at least one stowage unit and having a stowed state and a deployed state, said staircase comprising;
    - a stair support member;
    - a plurality of stair elements vertically fixed in position relative to said stair support member; and
    - a state actuating system transitioning said stair support member and said stair elements between said stowed state and said deployed state;
- said staircase vertically and non-rotatably actuated between states.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) An aircraft as in claim 28 wherein said at least one stowage unit comprises at least one service cart stowage unit.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) An overhead area access staircase stowage system comprising:

- at least one service cart stowage unit;

at least one stowage module; and  
a staircase proximate to said at least one service cart stowage unit, coupled to said at least one stowage module, and having a stowed state and a deployed state, said staircase comprising;  
a plurality of stair elements;  
a state actuating system transitioning said stair elements between said stowed state and said deployed state; and  
a staging area platform corresponding to at least one said stair elements and vertically aligned with a service cart stowage unit platform when deployed.

Claim 31 (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 30 wherein said staircase is deployable within said at least one stowage unit and comprises said at least one stowage module.

Claim 32 (Original) A method of accessing an overhead area and stowing objects within a stowage unit of an aircraft comprising:  
accessing a staircase within a stowage unit;  
releasing said staircase;  
deploying said staircase within said stowage unit comprising;  
vertically and non-rotatably translating a plurality of stair elements that are vertically fixed in position relative to each other; and  
supporting said plurality of stair elements;  
ascending said plurality of stair elements;  
interacting with the overhead area; and  
stowing said staircase.

Claim 33 (Original) A method as in claim 32 further comprising stowing objects within said staircase.

Claim 34 (Original) A method as in claim 32 further comprising retaining service carts within said stowage unit.

Claim 35 (Original) A method as in claim 34 wherein retaining service carts comprises the rotation of retainers coupled to at least one of a staircase base and a staging area platform member.

Claim 36 (Original) A method as in claim 32 further comprising stowing at least one service cart below at least one of a worktable and a platform member before deploying said staircase.

Claim 37 (Cancelled)

Claim 38 (Cancelled)

Claim 39 (Cancelled)

Claim 40 (Cancelled)

Claim 41 (new) An aircraft comprising an aircraft structure having at least one overhead area, and a staircase stowage system according to the claim 1.

Claim 42 (New) An aircraft as in claim 41 wherein said at least one stowage module resides between stair elements of said plurality of stair elements.

Claim 43 (New) An aircraft as in claim 41 wherein said staircase system further comprises a service cart storage unit.

Claim 44 (New) An aircraft as in claim 41 wherein said overhead area has a multiple service cart depth.